(vii) Substitution of oil in the transport sector through use of alternative fuels such as bio-diesel, ethanol blended-petrol etc.

(viii) Evolving suitable production technology for extraction of gas from gas hydrates under National Gas Hydrates Programmes (NGHP).

Transparent gas cylinders

2438. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
MS. MABEL REBELLO:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to introduce transparent gas cylinders to ascertain the left-over liquefied gas therein;

(b) if so, the details thereof, *inter-alia* indicating the time-frame within which these would made available to users; and

(c) the proposed deterrent action plan of Government to ensure that domestic gas cylinders are not diverted for commercial use?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) and (b) Government has conveyed "in principle" approval to the Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) for expanding the product line by way of introduction of composite cylinders for marketing domestic LPG, subject to there being no subsidy element in the LPG to be marketed through these composite cylinders. To start with, Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC) along with Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) intend to import some cylinders by floating global tender and do test marketing in selected cities during 2008-09. The composite cylinders are translucent and will show the level of LPG present in the cylinder.

(c) The possibility of diversion of subsidized domestic LPG cylinders by some unscrupulous elements cannot be ruled out due to the wide gap between the retail price of LPG for domestic use and the market price for commercial LPG.

In order to stop diversion of LPG Cylinders, the Government has enacted "Liquefied Petroleum Gas (Regulation of Supply and Distribution) Order, 2000" and formulated "Marketing Discipline Guidelines, 2001" which provides for penal action against LPG distributors indulging in diversion of LPG.

Whenever OMCs receive complaints, these are investigated and if the complaint is established, suitable action is taken against the LPG distributor(s) in acordance with the provisions of the MDG. MDG provides for following action against the distributor:—

- Fine of Rs. 20,000 plus the price of LPG diverted at commercial rates for 1st offence.
- Fine of Rs. 50,000 plus the price of LPG diverted at commercial rates for 2nd offence.
- Termination of the distributorship for 3rd offence.

In addition to the action taken by the OMCs, State Governments are empowered under the LPG (Regulation of Supply & Distribution) Order, 2000 promulgated under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 to take action against black marketing of domestic LPG. Similarly,

the Weights and Measures Departments of the States/UTs initiate legal action against those LPG distributors found supplying under-weight LPG cylinders. The State Governments have been alerted from time to time to take steps against the black-marketing/diversion of domestic cylinders for unauthorized usage.

Government have issued advertisements cautioning the public that use of domestic LPG for non-domestic purposes is illegal, dangerous and against national interest. Through these advertisements, cooperation of the general public has also been sought to report any irregularity/malpractice to the OMCs.

Losses of ONGC

2439. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR:
SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether CAG has said that ONGC frittered away huge sums in "unfruitful" expenditure and penalties stemming from poor planning, lack of foresight and co-ordination in decision-making besides sloppy monitoring of work during the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the areas where the ONGC has faulted; and

(c) the details of losses suffered and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) to (c) Office of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (C & AG) has recently forwarded their observations on an audit titled "Deep Water Exploration" relating to Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC). They have observed that some unfruitful expenditure has been incurred by ONGC.

The performance of ONGC during Tenth Plan (2002-07) in exploration and finding out new oil gas fields has been satisfactory. ONGC during Tenth Plan (2002-07) has made 35 hydrocarbon finds in its onland and offshore operational areas and accreted 676.76 Million Metric Tonnes (MMT) Oil and Oil Equivalent of Gas (O+OEG) in place with ultimate component of 240.88 MMT (O+OEG) against the Tenth Plan target of 570.43 MMT in-place and 155.51 MMT (O+OEG) in ultimate category respectively. The ultra deepwater discovery in KG Offshore made during 2006-07 by ONGC is the first ultra deepwater discovery in the country. ONGC has also, for the first time, discovered hydrocarbons in the eastern offshore in Mahanadi Basin.

During Tenth Plan period, exploratory inputs expended by ONGC in its onland and offshore operational areas include acquisition of 59683.26 Ground Line Kilometre/Line Kilometre (GLK/LK) of 2 D seismic data against the target of 35286 GLK/LK and 92988 sq. km. of 3D seismic data against the target of 34834 sq. km. and drilled 576 exploratory wells against a target of 561 exploratory wells.

However, ONGC as an operator could not complete Minimum Work Programme (MWP) in some blocks as per Production Sharing Contracts (PSC) and paid US Dollar 50.3 Million towards payments for unfinished work programme and seeking extensions.